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ABSTRACT

To measure the interpersonal perceptions of 121 student teachers and their college supervisors and cooperating teachers, seven forms of a self-perception inventory of 72 traits expressed as dichotomous pairs of a continuum were administered to all three groups after the students had completed their educational internship. The index scores were submitted to a t test for correlated groups. Results indicated significantly higher self-concepts for the student teachers than the ratings which both groups of teachers gave them. The cooperating teachers and college supervisors anticipated this result with their ratings of how they thought the students would look at themselves. However, the students were less perceptive. They thought their cooperating teachers and supervisors would rate them higher as prospective teachers than they actually did. (Author/JS)

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**INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTIONS
of STUDENT TEACHERS**

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Interpersonal Perceptions of Student Teachers

Objectives

This research study was undertaken for the following purposes:

- (1) To assess how student teachers look at themselves as prospective teachers.
- (2) To assess how student teachers think their college supervisors and co-operating teachers view them as future teachers.
- (3) To assess how the college supervisors and co-operating teachers actually see the students as teachers and how they think the students view themselves as teachers.

Methods

(Seven forms of a self-perception inventory of 72 traits expressed as dichotomous pairs of a continuum-- used in previous research -- were administered to the students after they had completed their educational internship.)

The following dimensions were measured:

- (1) The students' self concept as a teacher (SC_t).
- (2) The students' reflected self in the eyes of their co-operating teachers (RS_{co}).
- (3) The students' reflected self in the eyes of their university supervisors (RS_{sup}).
- (4) The co-operating teachers' view of the student teachers (TP_{co}).
- (5) The college supervisors' view of the student teachers (TP_{sup}).
- (6) The co-operating teachers' perception of how the students look at themselves as teachers (RTP_{co}).

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- (7) The college supervisors' perception of how the students look at themselves as teachers (RTP_{sup}).

The index scores yielded were then submitted to a t-test for correlated groups design.

Data Sources

There were 121 student teachers in the study, their cooperating teachers in the area public schools, and 14 college supervisors.

Results

Table 1 indicates the extent of the significance in any of the comparison tests. In general, the students had significantly higher perceptions of themselves as teachers than either the co-operating teachers or the supervisors had of them. Both groups of teachers rated the students lower than they thought the students rated themselves. The students thought their teachers would rate them higher as prospective teachers than they actually did. Figure 1 conceptualizes these relationships.

Educational Implications

Students' self concepts as teachers are closely tied to their perceptions of their supervisors' and cooperating teachers' views of them. Yet, the students looked at themselves higher than these two groups of teachers did. Interestingly enough, the teachers anticipated this result in their ratings of how they thought the students would look at themselves. However, the students were less perceptive. The teachers did not rate the students as high as the students thought they would.

Table 1

Significance of Difference
Between Student Teachers'
Self-Perception Scores and
Supervisors' Ratings of Them
as Prospective Teachers

Dimension Measured	Means	Differences					
		RS _{co}	TP _{co}	RTP _{co}	RS _{sup}	TP _{sup}	RTP _{sup}
Self Concept (SC _t)	40.21	-2.93	5.11*	-9.52**	.04	8.59**	-8.57**
Reflected Self-cooperating teacher (RS _{co})	43.14	--	8.04**	-6.59**	2.97	11.52**	-5.64*
Teacher Perception-cooperating teacher (TP _{co})	35.10	--	--	-14.63**	-5.07*	3.48	-13.68**
Reflected Teacher Perception (RTP _{co})	49.73	--	--	--	9.56**	18.11**	.95
Reflected Self-college supervisor (RS _{sup})	40.17	--	--	--	--	8.55**	-8.61**
Teachers Perception-college supervisor (TP _{sup})	31.62	--	--	--	--	--	-17.16**
Reflected Teacher Perception (RTP _{sup})	48.78	--	--	--	--	--	--

*p < .05

**p < .01

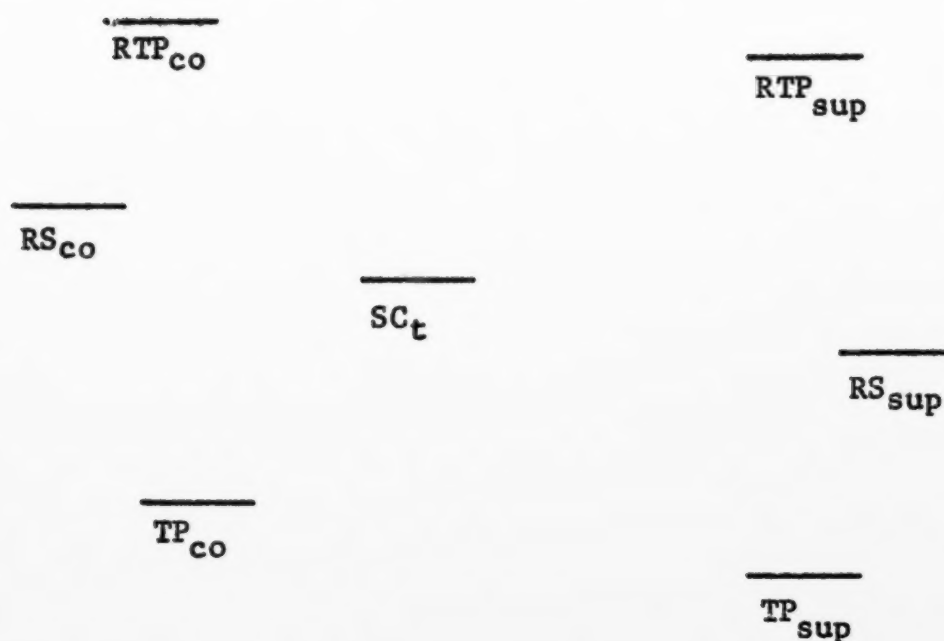


Figure 1
Relative Position
Of Interpersonal Perceptions
of Student Teachers

Core:

- SC_t -- Self concept of student teachers
- RS_{co} -- Reflected self-cooperating teachers
- TP_{co} -- Teacher perception-cooperating teachers
- RTP_{co} -- Reflected teacher perception-cooperating teachers
- RS_{sup} -- Reflected self-college supervisors
- TP_{sup} -- Teacher perception-college supervisors
- RTP_{sup} -- Reflected teacher perception-college supervisors